

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :

:

Regular Meeting. :

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May 2, 2022

PROCEEDINGS OF

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne, and Board Members Kimberly E. Marinello, Michael Sexton, and Josh Jaffe, on Monday, May 2, 2022, beginning at approximately 2:58 p.m., and concluding at approximately 3:15 p.m.

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1 **APPEARANCES:**

2 **FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**
3 Jeanine Hummer, Esquire
4 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
5 373 South High Street, 13th Floor
6 Columbus, Ohio 43215,

7 On behalf of the Board.

8 **ALSO PRESENT:**

9 Erin Gibbons
10 Jeff Mackey
11 Sara Ziemba

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AGENDA ITEMS PAGE

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BOARD EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A - Paper Ballot Allocation, 22 pages 6

Exhibit B - Voting Equipment Allocation, 6 pages 6

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Monday Afternoon Session
May 2, 2022
2:58 p.m.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We'll see if
we have a quorum.

Kim Marinello.

MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
Preisse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Josh
Jaffe.

MEMBER JAFFE: Yes.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We do indeed
have a quorum.

The first item on the agenda is the
approval of the minutes from April 4, March 14th,
and February 14th.

Are there any additions or deletions
or corrections?

MEMBER JAFFE: Hearing none, I move
that the Board approve the minutes of the April
4th, March 14th, and February 14, 2022 meetings of

1 the Franklin County Board of Elections as
2 submitted.

3 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
6 the motion signify by saying aye.

7 (Vote taken.)

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
9 same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
12 carries.

13 The next item on the agenda is the
14 paper ballot allocation for the May 3rd Primary
15 Election. We're required by the Secretary of State
16 to adopt this paper ballot allocation on two
17 different occasions. We did that at a previous
18 meeting. This is the second paper ballot
19 allocation we will hopefully approve. There's been
20 no change in the paper ballot allocation since the
21 last time you approved it. So everything should be
22 the same as when we last approved the paper ballot
23 allocation.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Sounds good.

25 MEMBER SEXTON: I move the Board

1 adopt the paper ballot allocation formula in
2 Exhibit A compiled by the Board staff for the
3 May 3rd, 2022 Primary Election.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
6 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
7 the motion signify by saying aye.

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 The next item on the agenda is the
15 allocation of voting machine and E-Pollbook
16 allocation for the May 3rd primary. Again, in this
17 instance we're required to adopt this on two
18 separate occasions. This would be the second
19 occasion. And again, there has been no change in
20 the E-Pollbook allocation or the voting machine
21 allocation.

22 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
23 move that the Board adopt the voting machine
24 allocation formula in Exhibit B compiled by the
25 Board staff for the May 3, 2022 Primary Election.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
2 motion.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
4 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
5 the motion signify by saying aye.

6 (Vote taken.)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
8 same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
11 carries.

12 The next item on the agenda is a
13 voter challenge. And I'm going to call on Sara
14 Ziemba, the head of our voter registration
15 department -- or voter services, to talk about that
16 item

17 MS. ZIEMBA: Good afternoon
18 everyone. My name is Sara Ziemba. I'm the
19 supervisor in the Voter Services Department here.

20 And we have a challenge brought to
21 us from a registered voter, Patricia Slaughter, of
22 2704 Petzinger Road in Columbus against Mark
23 Cochran who is also currently registered at
24 2704 Petzinger Road in Columbus.

25 In your packet you've got her

1 challenge form that she affirms she's lived at the
2 address since January of 1990 and that the
3 individual, Mark Cochran, has been registered there
4 since 2015 but has never lived at that address in
5 the entire 30-plus-year period she's lived at the
6 home on Petzinger.

7 You also have in your packet the
8 voting histories and brief comments regarding both
9 Mark Cochran's voting history and Patricia
10 Slaughter's history.

11 On Mark Cochran, he was registered
12 in 2015 and that was the last registration or
13 activity -- voter-initiated activity we have had
14 from him since he registered in 2015. He's never
15 voted, he's never returned any confirmation notice,
16 signed a petition, has done nothing to indicate
17 that he exists, lives at 2704 Petzinger, or wants
18 to remain registered at that address.

19 He received a supplemental notice in
20 2018, which is part of the non-discriminatory NVRA
21 list maintenance process that the Secretary of
22 State has us carry out on their behalf to keep our
23 rolls up to date and accurate. He did not respond
24 to that notice.

25 And then in 2022, earlier this year,

1 in March, as the second part of that NVRA
2 supplemental process, we sent another confirmation
3 notice to Mr. Cochran at 2407 Petzinger, letting
4 him know that if he doesn't do any voter activity
5 before July of this year, 2022, he will be removed
6 from the voter rolls because of the extended period
7 of inactivity. So he is currently scheduled to be
8 removed as part of the NVRA supplemental process in
9 July of 2022 in accordance with the Ohio Secretary
10 of State's directive 2022-23.

11 The next document you'll have is
12 Patricia Slaughter's voting history, and it goes
13 all the way back to when we started tracking it
14 back in 1990. You can see she's voted consistently
15 throughout the entire time we have been tracking it
16 on our system that I could get.

17 She has been registered to vote in
18 Franklin County since 1977. And you'll notice I
19 highlighted a brief period of time in 2007 where
20 there was an online registration that mistakenly --
21 on our part at the Board of Elections we mistakenly
22 removed her address. And so she voted
23 provisionally the next time she went to vote and
24 that moved her address back to the 2704 Petzinger
25 which coincided with her testament on her voter

1 challenge form that she has lived there since 1990.
2 And you can see that I highlighted the change,
3 where it was the Board of Elections that moved her
4 address.

5 She votes regularly, she lives at
6 the home, and her registration and voting history
7 would indicate that she is being truthful in her
8 statement that Mark Cochran does not and has not
9 ever lived at that address.

10 The last set of papers that you'll
11 have are all of the documentation that we have on
12 file for Mr. Cochran and the relevant information
13 we have from Ms. Slaughter. And the first document
14 there is Mark Cochran's 2015 voter registration
15 form. That was the one and only piece of
16 documentation that we have from this individual.

17 The next one you'll see are a couple
18 of returned pieces of mail that Ms. Slaughter
19 received at her home, 2407 Petzinger Road, and she
20 has returned to us letting us know that no one --
21 it was addressed to Mr. Cochran and she returned it
22 to us letting us know that no one lives at that
23 home by that name. Those pieces of return mail
24 were from 2016 and 2018. So this has been going on
25 for several years, as you can see.

1 The next document in there is
2 Patricia Slaughter's 2007 voter registration form
3 that corrected her address back to 2407 Petzinger
4 after there was an internal Board of Elections
5 error that moved her. So she voted provisionally
6 that time and got her address corrected.

7 And then the last document that you
8 have is her original 1977 voter registration form
9 here in Franklin County.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You don't see
11 many of those.

12 MS. ZIEMBA: I know. I had to go to
13 the microfiche for that one.

14 That is all the information that I
15 have regarding this challenge. And I think
16 Ms. Slaughter is here, as well, to speak.

17 Are there any questions?

18 Thanks.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Great
20 report, Sara. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Very thorough.

22 MS. HUMMER: We probably should call
23 Ms. Slaughter.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Would you kindly
25 proceed to the podium and then our --

1 (Ms. Slaughter sworn by reporter.)

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Would you like to
3 tell us, Ms. Slaughter -- I think we had a real
4 nice thorough report from Sara, but you may
5 certainly make comments.

6 MS. SLAUGHTER: I don't have
7 anything else to say. I kept calling because I
8 kept getting the information, and I was told what I
9 needed to do to get him off of that address. So
10 that's what I did, I sent in the paperwork.

11 Do you need some sort of
12 identification: I have my driver's license and I
13 have some --

14 MS. HUMMER: If I could ask a couple
15 of questions.

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17 EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. HUMMER:

19 Q. Why don't you for the record provide
20 your full name.

21 A. Patricia Ann Slaughter.

22 Q. And you're the same person that
23 filed the notification that the individual that is
24 the subject of this hearing does not live at your
25 residence?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what is that residence?

3 A. 2704 Petzinger Road, Columbus, Ohio
4 43209.

5 Q. And has Mr. Cochran ever lived
6 there, to your knowledge?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And is there anything with regards
9 to his right to vote or his submittal that you know
10 of that you believe the Board should be aware of?

11 A. I don't know. I don't know him.

12 MS. HUMMER: I have nothing further.

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14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Great. That's
15 helpful. Okay. Thank you. Okay.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Pretty
17 straightforward.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah.

19 MR. JAFFE: I think so, too.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you for
21 doing what you did, Ms. Slaughter, and staying on
22 top of those matters.

23 MR. JAFFE: Yes. Thank you.

24 I move that the Board approve the
25 challenge of right to vote filed by Patricia

1 Slaughter of 2704 Petzinger Road, Columbus, Ohio,
2 against Mark Cochran of 2704 Petzinger Road,
3 Columbus, Ohio, and that Mark Cochran's
4 registration be removed in the Franklin County
5 voter files.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: I'll second.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
8 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
9 the motion signify by saying aye?

10 (Vote taken.)

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
12 same sign.

13 (No response.)

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
15 carries.

16 Fantastic. You're welcome to stay
17 here through the rest of the meeting or you're
18 welcome to leave, whatever your preference is.

19 MS. SLAUGHTER: That's okay.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
21 item on the agenda is a candidate withdrawal, and
22 I'll turn that over to Jeff Mackey.

23 MR. MACKEY: Jeff Mackey, manager of
24 Petitions and Campaign Finance.

25 April 15th we received written

1 notification from Danny O'Connor that he wished to
2 withdraw as a candidate for Representative to
3 Congress in the 15th Congressional District.

4 Notices will be posted at all the
5 voting locations and the ballot markers and the
6 paper ballot kiosks saying that votes for him will
7 not be counted.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That looks pretty
9 straightforward.

10 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
11 move that the Board accept the request of Danny
12 O'Connor to withdraw as a candidate for Congress in
13 the 15th District Democratic Primary and that any
14 votes cast for him not be counted.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
16 motion.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
19 the motion signify by saying aye.

20 (Vote taken.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
22 same sign.

23 (No response.)

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
25 carries.

1 The next item on the agenda is the
2 hiring of Georgia Verlaney, who is in our -- with
3 us today. And she started April 18th, so obviously
4 this would be retroactive. She's in the Precinct
5 Election Officials Department and has been by all
6 accounts doing a fantastic job for us.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Good to hear.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Anything you
9 want to say to the Board?

10 MS. VERLANEY: Well, I just tried to
11 pitch in and help. People were working very hard
12 making calls and so I offered to do some of the
13 file stuffing just to enable people to continue to
14 make phone calls and not disrupt for that type of
15 work.

16 MEMBER JAFFE: Glad to have you on
17 board.

18 I move that the Franklin County
19 Board of Elections hire Georgia Verlaney as a clerk
20 in the PEO Department, full-time, beginning Monday,
21 April 18, 2022, at a rate of \$16.55 per hour.

22 MEMBER SEXTON: I'll second.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
24 properly moved and seconded. All those in --

25 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Can we call roll?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Yes, we can.
2 We can absolutely do that.

3 Kim Marinello.

4 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
8 Preisse.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm going to
10 abstain.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Okay. And
12 Josh Jaffe.

13 MEMBER JAFFE: Yes.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Roll call is
15 three votes yes and one abstention. Motion
16 carries.

17 Congratulations, Georgia. Glad to
18 have you.

19 I should have mentioned that she's
20 an attorney and it never hurts to have an attorney
21 on board.

22 The next item on the agenda is a
23 purchase from Capital Citicom. This is the
24 purchase of 320 location workbooks, 982 roster
25 workbooks, and 642 street/road guides that we

1 actually use on election day to make sure that
2 people are in the right location, and if they're
3 not in the right location to help them get to their
4 right location to be able to vote. That's in the
5 amount of \$16,657. Any questions or --

6 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move
7 that the Board authorize the Board of Elections
8 staff to purchase 320 location workbooks,
9 982 roster workbooks, and 642 street/road guides
10 for use on election day in the amount of \$16,657.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
13 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
14 the motion signify by saying aye.

15 (Vote taken.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
17 same sign.

18 (No response.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
20 carries.

21 As I'm sure you're aware, tomorrow
22 is election day and we need to open the polls at
23 6:30 a.m. tomorrow and that requires a motion by
24 the Board to open the polls tomorrow at 6:30 a.m.

25 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move

1 that the polls be declared open on Tuesday, May
2 3rd, 2022, for the Primary Election beginning at
3 6:30 a.m. and closing at 7:30 p.m. and that in
4 accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section
5 3501.32 any voter in line prior to close of polls
6 at 7:30 p.m. shall be permitted to vote.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
9 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
10 the motion signify by saying aye.

11 (Vote taken.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
13 same sign.

14 (No response.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
16 carries.

17 I think it would be appropriate to
18 probably have a recess of the Board.

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the
20 Board recess this meeting of the Franklin County
21 Board of Elections, subject to recall by the Chair,
22 until after the close of the election being held on
23 Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been

1 properly moved --

2 Well, I guess we don't need to vote
3 on a recess. Oh, we do vote on a recess.

4 All those in favor of the motion to
5 recess signify by saying aye.

6 (Vote taken.)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
8 same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
11 carries.

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13 Thereupon, the proceedings were
14 recessed at approximately 3:15 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Carla D. Castle, a Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete written transcript of the proceedings in this matter;

That the foregoing was taken by me stenographically and transcribed by me with computer-aided transcription;

That the foregoing occurred at the aforementioned time and place;

That I am not an attorney for or relative of any of the parties and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 13th day of May, 2022.

/s/Carla D. Castle
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: September 29, 2026.

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